In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An in vitro method for ~~inducing growth inhibition or apoptosis~~ disrupting the binding of p53 and mdm2 or inhibiting the production of mdm2 in a population of cancer cells in which mdm2 is not overexpressed, comprising administering to the cells an agent comprising a peptide, less than 25 amino acids in length, and including the peptide motif FXaaXaaXaaW (SEQ ID NO: 4), where Xaa is any amino acid, wherein the agent has the property of disrupting the binding of p53 and mdm2 or inhibiting the production of mdm2.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the p53 is activated for DNA specific binding and transcription.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the agent comprises a peptide having an amino acid sequence that consists of a portion of human p53 which has the property of binding to mdm2.

4.- 7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the agent has the property of competing with mdm2 for binding p53, but does not inhibit the ~~ability of p53 to induce cell cycle arrest or apoptosis in cells after DNA damage~~ DNA specific binding property of p53.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the said peptide has at least 70% amino acid sequence identity with a portion of human p53.

12.-27. (Canceled)